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(54) Title: METHODS FOR DETECTION OF MYCOBACTERIUM TUBERCULOSIS

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides an oligonucleotide primer pair having SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 4 for amplification of Early Secretory Antigenic Target (esat)-6-gene of Mycobacterium species. The invention also provides a method for detecting M. tuberculosis in a sample based on the amplification of esat-6 gene, comprising isolating DNA template from the sample, amplifying with the above oligonucleotide primer pair and subjecting the amplified DNA product to separation and staining to detect the presence of amplified DNA product for identifying Mycobacterium tuberculosis in the sample. The invention further provides a diagnostic kit for detection of Mycobacterium tuberculosis. The invention also provides a method of detecting Mycobacterium tuberculosis from a sample by amplifying the 16S rRNA region from the isolated DNA template by conventional methods to detect Mycobacterium species and further amplifying the positive sample contains Mycobacterium species using primers positive for ESAT-6 region: detection of Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

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